

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, August 1, 2003

CHIEF RAMSEY REAFFIRMS MPDC POLICY PROHIBITING IMMIGRATION STATUS INQUIRIES

Chief Ramsey this past week issued a public statement reaffirming the MPDC policy that prohibits officers from inquiring about the citizenship, immigration or residency status of individuals they come into contact with, and from enforcing civil immigration laws. The Chief was joined by leaders of DC's Latino community, as well as Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham and Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Margret Nedelkoff Kellems in making the announcement. Ramsey said that while MPDC General Orders have prohibited immigration status inquiries for years, this announcement is important because some members of the community still mistakenly believe MPDC officers enforce civil immigration laws. As a result, many of these residents are reluctant to report crimes, cooperate with the police and receive the full range of police services that can help protect themselves and their communities. In addition to releasing the statement to the public, the Department is stepping up efforts to reinforce the policy among MPDC officers through training and other information.

The text of the MPDC statement on immigration issues is available online in both English (<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2003/07/072803.shtm>) and Spanish (http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2003/07/072803_span.shtm).

① Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2226>

① This week's announcement is the latest in a series of reforms designed to improve the MPDC's service to DC's Latino communities. One of those efforts is the MPDC's Latino Liaison Unit, which is featured at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/llu.shtm>

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2003 EXPECTED TO BRING OUT THOUSANDS OF DC RESIDENTS IN SOLIDARITY AGAINST CRIME

In community cookouts and block parties, neighborhood walks and candlelight vigils, open houses and other public events, thousands of DC residents are expected to turn out on Tuesday evening, August 5th, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of National Night Out. With the theme of "Building Partnerships for Safer Neighborhoods," crime prevention events that bring together residents and police officers are being held in all seven police districts. DC's celebration of NNO will officially begin at 5 pm, with a kickoff ceremony and crime prevention festival at Fort Stanton Recreation Center, 18th and Erie Streets, SE. Mayor Williams, Chief Ramsey, US Attorney Roscoe Howard, McGruff the Crime Dog, and various other community, government and clergy leaders will be on hand. Food, games, crime prevention information, child fingerprinting and other demonstrations will be provided. For the past 20 years, National Night Out has been bringing people together in a strong show of solidarity against crime in their communities, with DC an active partner from the beginning.

① Read more about DC's NNO celebration and learn about the Night Out events in your community by calling your local police district or by visiting:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/serv/programs/nno.shtm>

① Even if you can't attend an organized event on National Night Out, residents are still encouraged to turn on their exterior lights and spend some time outside, in a symbolic show of unity against crime.

MAYOR WILLIAMS, CHIEF RAMSEY CUT THE RIBBON ON NEW POLICE FACILITY IN PETWORTH

For years, the old Petworth Elementary School sat dormant and boarded up, an all-too-graphic symbol of the challenges facing the surrounding community. But the Williams Administration and the MPDC have breathed fresh new life into the structure—and, as a result, are hoping to enhance police-community relations and spur further economic development in the Petworth neighborhood. This past week, Mayor Williams and Chief Ramsey joined community leaders and residents in officially welcoming the new occupants of the refurbished Petworth Elementary building: the MPDC's Regional Operations Command (ROC)-North. After a ribbon-cutting, residents were allowed to tour the facility, located at 801 Shepherd Street, NW. The building houses the administrative offices of ROC-North, which coordinates policing activities in the Second and Fourth Police Districts, as well as the MPDC's Office of Professional Responsibility's administrative offices, the Force Investigation Team, a satellite training facility and other MPDC resources. In addition, the building features a new gymnasium and activity center for children (to be operated by the Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Clubs, in partnership with the Latin American Youth Center) and community rooms for use by Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and other community groups. The facility is designed to improve police operations, support police-community partnerships, provide activities for neighborhood youth and promote economic development along Georgia Avenue in Petworth.

MERGER OF LOCAL BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS TO PROVIDE MORE PROGRAMS FOR MORE AREA YOUTH

The Metropolitan Police Boys & Girls Clubs (MPBGC) have officially merged with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington (BGCGW) in an effort to provide even more programs serving even more area youth. The long-awaited merger of these two local youth service organizations will benefit children of all backgrounds, especially those at risk in the DC metropolitan area. The merger will preserve the facilities and services of the MPBGC, a local organization that has provided DC kids with strong police mentors and athletic and educational programs for more than 70 years. The seven MPBGC Clubs will join the BGCGW family, expanding the BGCGW operation to 27 Clubs and four Group Homes in suburban Maryland, Northern Virginia and DC. MPDC officers will continue to provide staff services and support in the seven former MPBGC Clubhouses and at the Camp Brown summer facility in Scotland, Maryland. BGCGW has been serving area youth for 116 years with a wide variety of programs. Both organizations, combined, will reach over 35,000 youth annually. The merger was made possible through a \$1 million donation from Freddie Mac and the Freddie Mac Foundation, as well as from donations from a host of other supporters.

NEWS & NOTES

Ask the Chief. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues, and takes phone calls and emails, during his monthly program on WTOP radio, on Thursday, August 7, from 10-11 am.

Hoopin in the Hood. The MPDC has teamed with several community-based organizations in presenting a four-week, "Hoopin in the Hood" basketball event on consecutive Friday evenings this summer at 16th and Euclid Streets, NW. The opening night had over 50 kids; the last night of the event is Friday, August 8. For more information, contact Neighborhood Services at (202) 671-2338.

① Read the details on the merger at:
<http://www.bgcgw.org/>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 8/1/03)

- 2003: 148
- 2002: 142
- % Change: +4.2%

Arrests (week ending 7/26/03)

- Total: 815
- Drugs: 120
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 17
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 44

Firearm Recoveries (as of 7/29/03)

- Total: 1,138
- July: 162

Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/1/03)

- 2003: 36
- 2002: 35
- % Change: +2.8%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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